

Message Text

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FROM QUINLAN MUSCAT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MU PINS OEXC

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM - NOMINATION FOR INTERNATIONAL
POLICE ACADEMY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EARLY CONSIDERATION IS REQUESTED ON THE
NOMINATION OF OMAN POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICE
ACADEMY SENIOR COURSE THIS SUMMMER. NOMINEE IS CEYLONESE-
BORN UK NATIONAL BUT VERY HIGHLY REGARDED AND SEEMS ASSURED
OF FOUR OR FIVE MORE YEARS SERVICE HERE. OMAN POLICE HAVE SIGNIFICANT
AND GROWING ROLE IN COMBATTING MAJOR PROBLEM OF SUBVERSION AND
NOMINEE HAS ALSO BEEN UNUSUALLY FORTHCOMING ON SUBJECTS OF
TERRORISM AND NARCOTICS CONTROL. END SUMMARY

2. LINKS BETWEEN USG AND NATIONAL POLICE HERE ARE UNUSUALLY CLOSE-
QUITE APART FROM THE COMMANDING POSITION OF FORT JALALI PRISON
LOOMING OVER CHANCERY RESIDENCE. OMAN POLICE HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY
FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING POLICE GUARD, CHECKING POSSIBLE LETTER
BOMBS, WAIVING AIRPORT REQUIREMENTS, ARRANGING FLEET VISITS,
AND HAVE TAKEN INITIATIVE IN OFFERING EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON
NARCOTICS AND REQUESTING ADVICE AND INFORMATION ON ANTI- TERRORIST
MEASURES. ROLE OF POLICE IN OMAN GOVERNMENT IS GROWING, AND POLICE
HAD SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN RECENT SWEEPING ROUNDUP SUBVERSIVES
BACKED BY SOUTH YEMEN AND SUPPLIED WITH NEW RUSSIAN AND CHINESE
ARMS.

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3. ACCORDINGLY, I BELIEVE TRAINING AND ORIENTATION FOR OMAN POLICE DESERVES HIGH PRIORITY IN EXCHANGE PROGRAM OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS AND RECOMMEND THAT USG OFFER FROM AID FUNDS, IF POSSIBLE, A FULL GRANT FOR TRAVEL, TUITION, AND EXPENSES OF SIX-WEEK SENIOR LEVEL COURSE AT THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY THIS SUMMER FOR OMAN COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. THIS WOULD BE IN NATURE OF A ONE- TIME PROGRAM TO ATTRACT TOP POLICE AUTHORITY AND SET STAGE FOR FUTURE POLICE TRAINING. IN FUTURE WE ENVISAGE POSSIBLE JUNIOR OFFICER TRAINING, WITH OMANI GOVERNMENT PAYING TRANSPORTATION.

4. NOMINEE IS FELIX D' SILVA, CEYLONSE BORN UK CITIZEN WHO IS FOUNDER AND ARCHITECT OF MODERN OMAN POLICE FORCE, DEVELOPED FROM COLLECTION OF NIGHTWATCHES IN 1970 TO FORCE WHICH WILL NUMBER OVER 1000 BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. ACCORDING BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND ANOTHER LOCAL SOURCE CLOSE TO SULTAN QABOOS, D' SILVA IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY SULTAN, WAS CONVERTED RECENTLY FROM LT COL TO COMMISSIONER IN PROCESS OF CIVILIANIZING POLICE OVER COMPETITION FROM SENIOR BRITISH POLICE OFFICIAL FROM UK; HE SEEMS ASSURED OF AT LEAST FOUR OR FIVE MORE YEARS OF COMMAND. HE IS ABOUT 45, SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY, HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN EAST AFRICAN POLICE FORCES, AND IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO AID PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR ENGLE WHO MET HIM THROUGH INTERPOL. HIS IMMEDIATE SENIOR STAFF IS ENTIRELY BRITISH; NEXT MOST SENIOR OMANI NATIONAL IS YOUNG CAPTAIN WITH ONLY FEW YEARS EXPERIENCE.

5. HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS REQUEST WITH D' SILVA BUT HE HIMSELF RAISED QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING SOME MONTHS AGO AND INDICATED HE WOULD BE WILLING UTILIZE HIS SUMMER LEAVE IN JULY AND AUGUST IF OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAINING AROSE. SINCE HIS LEAVE PLANS MUST BE CLEARED WITH SULTAN QABOOS WELL IN ADVANCE I HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE THIS EARLY CONSIDERATION.

6. AMBASSADOR' S COMMENT: I WARMLY ENDORSE THIS PROPOSAL FOR POLICE TRAINING OF OMANI POLICE OFFICIALS, AND THE IDEA OF AN INITIAL ALL- EXPENSE PAID APPROACH TO START PROGRAM. FROM OUR EXPERIENCE I BELIEVE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT OMANIS WOULD ACCEPT THIS FIRST EFFORT UNLESS WE PAY FULL PRICE. THEN, IF OMANIS ARE CONVINCED VALUE OF COURSE, THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY BE WILLING PAY AT LEAST PART OF EXPENSE.
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